

BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: February 19, 2025
LOCATION: Walsh Intermediate School, Collaboration & Innovation Center, Room 112
185 Damascus Road, Branford, CT
SUBJECT: Special Board of Education Meeting

ATTENDANCE

HERE	ATTENDEE	AFFILIATION
Y	Peter Berdon, Chair	Board of Education
Y	Ellen Michaels, Vice-Chair (Virtual)	Board of Education
Y	Meaghan DeLucia, Secretary	Board of Education
Y	Judith Barron	Board of Education
Y	Adam Greenberg	Board of Education
Y	Marie McNamara	Board of Education
Y	Ram Shrestha	Board of Education
Y	Shawn Tiernan	Board of Education
Y	Laura Troidle	Board of Education
N	Carson Jarvis	Student Representative
N	Grace Grammatico	Student Representative
N	Nneoma Obi	Student Representative
Y	Dr. Christopher Tranberg, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Allison Moran, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Blaize Levitan, Chief Operating Officer	Central Office

Others present:

BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
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CALL TO ORDER

01 Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by BOE Chair, Peter Berdon.

AGENDA CHANGES

There were no agenda changes made this evening.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Berdon reported that the Board received a thank you note from Nancy Hobbs and a communication from students regarding grade point averages and class standing.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, spoke about the budget, reiterated what he spoke about as true, two things that resonated, the process of where the budget goes, the reality of the process, looking at videos from the school year and the most heavily watched, an article in the Sound Newspaper and a deficit in the budget, being more assertive and standing up for a higher budget.

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BOE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

The BOE Student Representatives were unable to attend this evening's meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Among the items that Dr. Tranberg discussed this evening were; the administration paying close attention to national discourse concerning federal funding, the anticipated closure of the Department of Education (doesn't mean that funding associated with the Department is going away), some history on the Department including its mission, the EPA grant (signs pointed toward we do have the funding), attending the Board of Finance meeting to address the non-lapsing account for the FY 26 budget, capital appropriation and interim request for special education (would give us access to excess costs because we are currently working on a deficit with outplacements tuition and transportation), the master facilities is underway (Tecton meeting with different stakeholder groups), Community Conversations taking place, the recent *Anxious Generation* book club meeting (40 attendees), the next book club meeting are March 27 and April 10 (bring a friend), PreK and Kindergarten registration opened on March 14 (PreK registration closes on April 11), WIS turf fields and lights are in (we are currently on winter shutdown), all annual filings are complete for the IRS. Dr. Tranberg concluded his report by congratulating Dr. Katie Wagner for successfully defending her dissertation.

STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Teaching & Learning Committee

Ms. Michaels reported that the next meeting will be on March 12th at WIS.

B. Personnel & Finance Committee

Ms. DeLucia stated that there was an abundance of meetings on our budget workshop, the next meeting is March 12th and the budget came out of Committee with a unanimous vote.

C. Policy Committee

Mr. Tiernan stated that the Committee reviewed a number of policy changes, that arise out of a change in legislation and they are on the agenda tonight for first reading. The next meeting is March 12th.

D. Communication Committee

Ms. Troidle stated that the Committee discussed ParentSquare, Master Facilities Plan Meetings (February 25, March 25 and April 29), *the recent Anxious Generation book club* (the March meeting will have a guest speaker and the April meeting will have a mental health care provider). The next meeting is March 19th.

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CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- 02 A. To consider and if appropriate, vote to approve the Second Reading of policies:**
a. 1000 Non-Discrimination (Community)
b. 4600 Non-Discrimination (Personnel)
c. 5000 Non-Discrimination (Students)
d. 5025 Student Records

MOTION (Tiernan/Troidle) to approve this the following Consent Agenda Item:

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (by all BOE members attending in person and virtually)

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- 03 A. To consider and if appropriate, vote to approve the First Reading of policies:**
a. 4350 Family and Medical Leave
b. 4625 Section 504/ADA (Personnel)
c. 5125 Section 504/ADA (Students)
d. 4650 Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Personnel)
e. 5250 Title IX/Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students)

MOTION (Tiernan/McNamara) to approve the first reading of policies, 4350, 4625, 5125, 4650 and 5250.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (by all BOE members attending in person and virtually)

- 04 B. To consider and if appropriate, vote to approve the 2026-2027 School Year Calendar**

MOTION (DeLucia/Barron) to approve the 2026-2027 School Year Calendar.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (by all BOE members attending in person and virtually)

- 05 C. To consider and if appropriate, vote to accept State Project # 014-0035 BE/EA - Central Office and State Project # 014-0034 EA - Francis Walsh Intermediate School Projects Completion**

MOTION (Tiernan/Troidle) Branford Public Schools accepts State Project # 014-0035 BE/EA - Central Office and State Project # 014-0034 EA - Francis Walsh Intermediate School Projects as complete.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (by all BOE members attending in person and virtually)

- 06 D. To consider and if appropriate, vote to approve the FY 26 Operating and Capital Budget**

MOTION (DeLucia/Barron) to approve the FY 26 Operating and Capital Budget as recommended by the Personnel & Finance Committee and modified by the secondary motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (by all BOE members attending in person and virtually)

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DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (Continued)

- 07** MOTION (Troidle/DeLucia) to transfer \$300,000 from the transportation budget to a special holding account that can not be released without the approval of the Board of Education.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (by all BOE members attending in person and virtually)

08 E. Naming of Facilities Discussion

MOTION (DeLucia/Tiernan) to form a sub-committee of the Board to discuss recommend establishing a Facilities Naming Committee.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (by all BOE members attending in person and virtually)

BOARD REPORTS

ACES - Ms. Michaels reported that Patrice McCarthy from CAFE joined them to talk about the legislature wanting to address special education issues regarding excess costs, ACES Career Fair will be on March 15 in their main building.

CAFE - Mr. Tiernan reported that CAFE Day on the Hill is March 12 (last year he and Dr. Tranberg attended), we probably have one of the best delegations in the State, it is significant when we all go to Hartford from the different BOE's from around the State to advocate for children. Mr. Tiernan stated that he is going and encouraged others to attend as well.

PTA REPORTS

There were no PTA reports given this evening.

ADJOURN

- 09** MOTION (DeLucia/Troidle) to adjourn.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (by all BOE members attending in person and virtually)

Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting at 7:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Meaghan DeLucia
Secretary

Prepared by,
Kerry Eyrich

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UPCOMING BOE MEETINGS

(All meetings will take place in the WIS Collaboration & Innovation Center – Room 112)

BOE Committee Chairs Meeting (Virtual)	March 5, 2025 @ 5:00
Teaching & Learning Committee	March 12, 2025 @ 6:00 PM
Personnel & Finance Committee	March 12, 2025 @ 7:00 PM
Policy Committee	March 12, 2025 @ 7:30 PM
Communication Committee	March 19, 2025 @ 6:00 PM
Full BOE Meetings	March 19, 2025 @ 6:30 PM